

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SINGAP 01626 110211Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

SSO-00 /066 W

-----077044 110549Z /14

R 100830Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0028

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 1626

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, SN, VN

SUBJ: HIJACKED VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER ARRIVES IN  
SINGAPORE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS, VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER VAM-CO 24, HIJACKED BY FOUR CREW MEMBERS SOME DAYS AGO WHILE SAILING BETWEEN HAIPHONG AND HO CHI MINH CITY, ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE APRIL 9 AT ABOUT 1000 (LOCAL TIME) WITH REPORTED 34 HOSTAGES (INCLUDING SIX CREW MEMBERS) ABOARD. SECOND OFFICER AND THREE CREW MEMBERS SAID TO HAVE OVERPOWERED CAPTAIN AND REST OF CREW (FIVE PERSONS), AND LOCKED THEM IN CABIN. WHEN SHIP RAN SHORT OF FUEL AND FOOD IT WAS FORCED TO STOP IN SINGAPORE, ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, ALTHOUGH INTENDED DESTINATION AUSTRALIA. SHIP IS SAID TO BE GUARDED BY MARINE POLICE PATROL BOATS WITH CID SPECIAL INVESTIGATION OFFICERS ON BOARD, WHILE GOS DETERMINES ACTION TO BE TAKEN.

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END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. MFA HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FOUR CREW MEMBERS INVOLVED IN HIJACKING, AND TWENTY-TWO PASSENGERS ON BOARD VESSEL, WISH TO GO TO AUSTRALIA. OTHER SIX CREW MEMBERS WANT TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. LAW MINISTRY IS WORKING ON LEGAL ASPECTS OF

CASE. RECENTLY PASSED HIJACKING LAW APPLIES ONLY TO AIRPLANES, AND GOS UNCERTAIN THIS INCIDENT QUALIFIES AS ACT OF PIRACY. NO ONE WAS INJURED IN INCIDENT, AND WISHES OF PASSENGERS REPORTEDLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTENTIONS OF MUTINEERS, THUS INCIDENT DIFFERS FROM HIJACKING OF PLANE IN OCTOBER 1977.

3. AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER WAS CALLED TO MFA MONDAY AFTERNOON, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. AT THIS STAGE, CAN SEE NO USEFUL ROLE THAT WE MIGHT PLAY BUT WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.  
HOLDRIDGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, MERCHANT SEAMEN  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978SINGAP01626  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** HIJACKED VIETNAMESE FREIGHTER ARRIVES IN SINGAPORE  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014